

The Ventura County and Simi Valley experiences serve as nationwide models of competent law enforcement and a committed citizenry. I applaud those individuals who personally risk their lives to provide us with a safe community and congratulate them on a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO DONALD V.  
WEIDMAN

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, for more than 50 years, Donald V. Weidman has been an effective minister of the Christian gospel. Since 1987, he has served with distinction as executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, the statewide association of the more than 1,900 churches and 625,000 members affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Recently, he announced plans to retire effective August 31, 1997.

As early as the 1940's, Don was a member and leader of gospel music groups that traveled extensively in the Midwest. Later, he would enter full-time ministry and serve as the pastor of growing churches in DeSoto, St. Louis, Liberty, and Kansas City, MO. As a denomination spokesman, he served with distinction as second vice president of the 16-million member Southern Baptist Convention and as president of the Missouri Baptist Convention. He has been on the boards of trustees for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX; William Jewell College in Liberty, MO; and Baptist Memorial Health Care Systems in Kansas City.

Missouri Baptists have experienced exceptional growth during his years as executive director. A crowning achievement of those years is the current missions and ministry partnership Missouri Baptists have with Baptists in the Republic of Belarus, one of the former Soviet republics.

Don's work extends beyond Baptist circles, however. He has been active in civic clubs, Chambers of Commerce and United Way in every community where he has lived.

Don's wife, Marian, has been a faithful partner in his ministry. Three of their four children are in full-time vocational ministry. Another daughter is an active lay leader in her church.

Don Weidman's compassion, humor, and common sense have served Missouri Baptists well in challenging times. His faith and commitment to seek and follow God's will set a great example for denominational leaders across America.

KILDEE SALUTES THE HOUSE OF  
SPENCER

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. J. Merrill Spencer and his wife Edith Prunty Spencer, who are retiring after 42 years of distinguished service to the residents of Flint, MI as the proprietors of the House of Spencer Mortuary.

Dr. Spencer is a veteran of World War II, and served in the 92d Division known as the Buffalo soldiers. After completing his studies, Dr. Spencer served our community in a number of capacities including, teacher, principal, and postal clerk. The Spencer's founded the House of Spencer Mortuary on November 3, 1955. Dr. Spencer also became a partner in a stock brokerage firm and the Stonehearth Restaurant.

Despite managing several thriving businesses, Dr. Spencer found time to serve on several boards and commissions in Genesee County. He served on the Executive Committee of the Genesee County Democratic Party, the Genesee County Board of Supervisors, was an Alternate Delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention, and served for 12 years on the Flint Board of Education. As a lifetime member of the NAACP, Alpha Phi Fraternity, the Morehouse Alumni Association and the Optimist Club, Dr. Spencer has been dedicated to ensuring that every individual is given equal opportunity. As a mentor, he has encouraged many of our youth to succeed.

Although the accomplishments of Dr. Spencer are impressive, I think he would agree that his marriage to Edith Prunty Spencer is what he is most proud of. Mrs. Spencer has been an inspiration to me for her dedication to literacy. Her love of reading led her to work in a number of positions at the Flint Public Library. She retired as Chief of Public Service from the library in 1987 after 37 years of service.

An active member of the Urban League, the NAACP, the League of Women Voters, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Mrs. Spencer has provided our community with a strong advocate for women. Mrs. Spencer has been recognized by her peers on many occasions for her selfless dedication to making our community a better place. She was the recipient of the Hands of Mercy Award, was recognized by Who's Who of American Women, and was named Alumnae of Year by Wayne State University. I know that Mrs. Spencer was deeply honored when the Flint Public Library named the periodicals department, the "Edith Prunty Spencer Room."

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to rise today to pay tribute to Dr. and Mrs. J. Merrill Spencer. Their lives should serve as an example to all of us. I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to this dynamic couple on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on September 19, 1997. I ask you and my fellow members of the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the Spencer family all the best in their retirement. They deserve our accolades.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS FAHEY

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Elmhurst and Corona, Queens, to pay special tribute to a remarkable individual who has distinguished himself as an exceptional police officer and role model for our young. Thomas Fahey has brought hope to

the lives of many in Elmhurst and Queens by reaching out to the community and helping those in need.

As a decorated 14-year veteran of the New York Police Department, Officer Fahey has always been there for our community and our children—especially in these last 8 years, during which he has served as the youth officer at the 110th precinct in Corona and Elmhurst, Queens. He has helped kids that were in trouble and helped kids stay out of trouble. As a mentor and friend he has inspired countless young men and women to stay in school and strive for a better life.

Officer Fahey has led by example, and there can be no better example than his selfless service during rescue efforts after TWA Flight 800 exploded above Long Island. In fact, he received a decoration from New York City for putting his life at risk to help the families and victims of Flight 800. Thomas Fahey is truly a hero, and his work in the community is a shining example to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my colleagues join me in honoring Officer Thomas Fahey. He inspires those who work with him, and he has earned the devotion of his friends and the gratitude of his community.

IN HONOR OF IDA INEZ BERROCAL  
TORRES

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Ida Inez Berrocal Torres, who is being honored this evening by the Queens Women's Political Caucus. Ms. Torres has been in the forefront of workers' rights, particularly the rights of women and Hispanic workers. The most accurate portrait of Ms. Torres comes from Ms. Torres herself, as she describes herself as a "worker for workers."

Ms. Torres' involvement in the labor movement covers all facets: she has been an organizer, teacher, leader, and elected union official. Her advocacy work in the labor movement began with her position as a telephone operator in the union. In 1965, after a strike at Bloomingdale's, the workers petitioned that Ida become their union organizer for local 3 of United Storeworkers. In 1977, she was elected vice president of local 3, RWDSU, and continues in that capacity today.

Ida's work also has influence on the national level. She currently represents RWDSU on the national executive board of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, serves on the executive board of the New York City Labor Council, and is president of the Hispanic Labor Committee and Advisory Committee to the New York City Central Labor Council.

Ida's role as a teacher has been equally important in the labor movement. She has served as an instructor in labor studies at Cornell University, New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and the Harry Van Arsdale Center for Labor Studies, State University of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Ida Inez Berrocal Torres. I am honored to have such a great woman and leader in my district.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL, "ATLANTIS"

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago our Nation's Capital was blessed with the arrival of the U.S. Oceanographic Research Vessel, *Atlantis*. Operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute of Massachusetts and brought to Washington, DC, in conjunction with the Office of Naval Research, the 288-foot *Atlantis* docked in Old Town Alexandria prior to leaving on a 2-year global research mission.

The *Atlantis* was built by the U.S. Navy and launched recently in Pascagoula, MS, at a christening ceremony including Members of the House, the Senate, and the administration. The *Atlantis* will be operated by Woods Hole, an outstanding institution that has been a leader in ocean science and research for nearly 70 years. Over the years, the findings of Woods Hole have benefited the United States and the world. Much of this work involves basic research sponsored by a number of Federal departments and agencies including the National Science Foundation, the Department of Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The results of the work of Woods Hole is far reaching and vital to our future affecting food production, earthquake and storm predicting, agriculture, medicine, and even our own national defense. This work is also critical to unlocking the mysteries that lie beneath the surface of the world's oceans which comprise two-thirds of the Earth's surface.

Mr. Speaker, the recent arrival of the *Atlantis* in our Nation's Capital served as a reminder of the importance of scientific research which is critical to our national economy and world leadership. I commend the leadership of the Department of Defense and the U.S. Navy for their continued work in this area and urge my colleagues to continue to support the fine work of both the *Atlantis* and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

MY GOOD FRIEND HOMER C. JONES—GET WELL SOON

**HON. GLENN POSHARD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding man, Homer C. Jones. Homer is currently in the hospital and I would like to wish him well and introduce this fine man to my colleagues and the rest of the country. He is a dedicated man who has always helped his fellow neighbors and contributed a great deal to his community.

Homer was born in Galatia, IL, on July 30, 1908; his 90th birthday is just around the corner. He considers Benton, IL, his home, and besides his numerous volunteer efforts he served on the building commission for nearly 30 years. Homer is a well-rounded man, having won his division as a Golden Gloves boxer in 1925, and graduated from the Mohler Bar-

ber College in St. Louis. He then returned to Benton and started his career as a barber and is still giving people great haircuts today.

In 1928, he married his first wife, Helen Fisher, and they had two children, Kenneth and Richard. Sadly, Helen was stricken with cancer and passed away after several years of marriage. In 1969, Homer met Vorsa Henly of West Frankfort, IL, fell in love, and they have been a happily married couple ever since. They have been able to share the joy of raising her two daughters Becky Cook and Leslie Higginson.

As an active resident of Benton, Homer has held many elected offices, including precinct committeeman for four terms, president of the Lions Club for four terms, a former Elk Club and Moose Club member, and chairman of the Franklin County Zoning Board. He organized the first stock club in Benton, was elected for 36 years to the Benton Community Center Board, and is also a dedicated 60-year member of the First Baptist Church of Benton.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Homer has dedicated his life to serving his community. Now it is our turn to thank Homer for all of the energy and love he expended for so many years to make Benton, IL, a better place. Homer, I will be praying for your recovery and wish you well. It has been an honor to represent you in the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO FRED FARR

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago our colleague Sam Farr of California experienced the loss of his father, former State Senator Fred Farr, who passed away at the age of 86. Fred Farr was widely revered as an effective, compassionate leader who fought to improve the lives of Californians from all walks of life through his work in the State Legislature. Fred Farr's greatness emanated from his goodness and he will be sorely missed by those who knew him and benefited from his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Fred Farr, and extending our deepest condolences to his son and all his family, and request that the article from the San Jose Mercury News be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

At this time, I recall the poet's words . . . "and so he passed on and all the trumpets sounded on the other side."

[From San Jose Mercury News, June 11, 1997]

FRED FARR WAS GREAT MAN AND WORTHY REPRESENTATIVE

(By Lee Quarnstrom)

When my friend John Riley heard that former state Sen. Fred Farr had died Tuesday at the age of 86, he said, "Well, he won't be going to a better place, because Monterey is already paradise."

John, who was once Fred Farr's neighbor in Carmel, wasn't being facetious. He was, in fact, expressing in his own way his admiration for the man who represented the Monterey Bay region in the California Senate and whose son, Sam, now represents us in the Congress.

Let me get this on the record right now: Fred Farr was a great man.

For a tiny portion of this state, the Monterey Bay area has sent some remarkable people to the capitals of California and the United States. Fred Farr was among the best of them.

My first encounter with him was during a special election more than a quarter century ago. I was a reporter for the Watsonville Register Pajaronian, and Farr, who had been redistricted out of the state Senate, was seeking an Assembly seat that had opened up because the incumbent had died in a traffic accident.

As we motored along Highway I somewhere north of Castroville, where he was scheduled to give a stump speech and shake the voters' hands, Farr looked out across a field of row crops and softly told me, "There's what I'm proudest of, of all the things I did in the Legislature."

I asked him what he meant. He explained that he had written the legislation that mandates that sufficient number of portable toilets must be put in the fields when the farmhands who plant and tend and harvest the crops are working.

Before his bill, farm workers had to squat between rows of lettuce or cauliflower—or whatever—when nature called. His bill, he proudly told me, give those men and women who pick our food "some privacy and dignity when they have to relieve themselves."

"What a great man!" I said to myself. And I meant it.

Fred Farr did many things for many people. He saved the Coast Highway through Big Sur when the state Department of Transportation wanted to turn Highway I into a multilane freeway—a deed for which each of us should be eternally grateful.

He helped preserve the stone tower and home of the late and great Carmel poet, Robinson Jeffers. He was a founder of the Tor House Foundation, which helped raise funds so that Jeffers' heirs would not have to sell the house when they needed cash to live on. He was a stalwart liberal during the darkness of the McCarthy era and took stands that caused some Americans to be labeled as Communists.

The last time I saw Farr was when he invited me to lunch in Carmel a few years ago. After our meal he walked me to my car, where I discovered I had a flat tire. He drove me to his gas station and politely asked the mechanic whether he could solve my problem expeditiously. He was not demanding service as a former bigwig, he asked for the mechanic's help simply as the gentleman that he was.

His son Sam told me Tuesday that as his father lay dying, people came to his hospital room not only to pay tribute to Fred Farr, but to touch him, the way people touch those who possess great good souls or notable celebrity.

If there is place where good souls go after the body dies, it will no doubt be more beautiful and probably less crowded than the Monterey Peninsula. If that place exists, Fred Farr will grace it no less than he graced this region he called home and where he died.

HONORING JUDGE ROBERT KURTZ RODIBAUGH

**HON. TIM ROEMER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise today in appreciation of Judge Robert Kurtz Rodibaugh, the senior bankruptcy judge for the South Bend Division of